

Appl. No. 10/774,398
Amendment dated May 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claims 4-8 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 4-8, following entry of this Amendment, are all the claims pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 9 have been canceled. Claim 4 has been rewritten.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

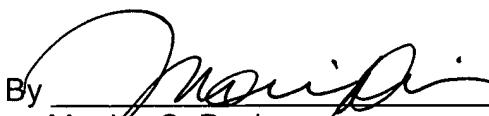
Claim 3 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claim 3 has been canceled and, thus, the objection of claim 3 is moot.

Claims 1-3 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masleid (U.S. Patent No. 5,610,548). Claims 1-3 and 9 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Monica S. Davis
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,492
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-6040
Facsimile: (202) 783-6031